

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend page 1, paragraph 2, to read as follows:

[DESCRIPTION]

Please amend page 1, paragraph 3, to read as follows:

- - FIELD OF THE INVENTION - -**[Field of the invention]**

The present invention relates generally to chemical treatment of articles and, more particularly, to [the use] application of a substance [capable of completely eliminating the bad smell of the feet, in particular but not exclusively when applied to socks, stockings and footwear products. It therefore extends also] to textiles, footwear, [or] sanitary products [treated with said substance] and/or the like so as to suppress or eliminate noxious odors.

Please amend page 1, paragraph 4, to read as follows:

- - BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION - -**[Description of the prior art]**

It is well known that [our] human feet can emanate [bad smell] noxious odors when [we take off our] footwear is removed, especially after it has been worn for an entire

day. This phenomenon^[on]a, it has been found, is even more [perceptible when the used] noticeable with shoes [are] made of [rubber or, in any case, synthetic] a material that prevents transpiration such as rubber or sythetics. After [a certain period of] prolonged use, the shoe often [tends to] becomes impregnated with [that smell] such odors and [thus tends to], thereby, it too becomes a [bad-smell] source of offensive odors [its own].

Please amend page 2, second full paragraph, to read as follows:

- - OBJECTS AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION - -

[Summary of the invention]

[The applicant has now found out] Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a fully effective [solution of the problems outlined above thanks to the identification of an active principle ingredient capable of completely inhibiting] composition and method for neutralizing entirely the proliferation of [this] odiferous fung[us]ⁱ and, therefore, completely [also of wholly] eliminating the [bad smell due to the] noxious odors characteristic of sweating [of the] feet.

Please insert the following new paragraph after the first full paragraph on page 3 as follows.

- - Still other objects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following description of the preferred embodiments. - -

Please amend page 3, second full paragraph, to read as follows:

- - DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS - -

[Description of the preferred embodiments]

The characteristics and advantages of the present invention will be brought out more clearly by the following description of its embodiments, which is given purely by way of example and is not to be taken as limitative in any way.]

Please amend from after the second full paragraph on page 3 to before the first full paragraph on page 4 to read as follows:

[As already suggested above, the invention finds its most fruitful practical application - though not the only one - in the preparation of] Referring now to a specific, illustrative deodorizing composition and method to be used for treating [the] an article [destined] to come into [-] direct or indirect [-] contact with [the] a user's foot[, and therefore], such articles including, but not limited to socks, stockings, insoles, [but also] soles and uppers of shoes, [in order] so as to [obtain] provide footwear articles that do not acquire an unpleasant [smell] odor during [their] use. [In all these cases the] According to various aspects of the present invention, such treatment [will] is preferably [be] carried out by the [producer] manufacturer of the article before it is brought [in]to [commerce] market and even, in the case of soles, uppers or other parts of shoes, before or during [the actual manufacture] production of the shoe.

Please insert the following new paragraph after the second full paragraph on page

7:

- - Various modifications and alterations may be appreciated based on a review of this disclosure. These changes and additions are intended to be within the scope and spirit of the invention as defined by the following claims. - -